

BOATING ON THE FATHER OF WATERS

A TRIP MUCH THE SAME NOW AS IN DICKENS' DAY.

Funny Big Steamboats That Don't Worry About Schedule Time—The Roustabouts and the Swearing Mates—Pictures and History Along the River's Shifting Banks.

St. Louis Letter in New York Sun.

Even when this country shall have the same density of population as the Mississippi river valley...

It is almost safe to predict, too, that the Mississippi riverboats at the close of the next century will be what they are now...

FEW CHANGES.

The changes in the steamboats since the days when they were the chief means of transportation are few...

It is a rest to the soul of the civilization-tired man to ride on a boat which makes no effort...

A TYPE BY ITSELF.

The Mississippi river steamboat is impressive as an object of scenic beauty or Hudson river steamer as an object of art...

NEW MADRID.

There is always somebody to recall the fact that New Madrid suffered more from an earthquake early in the century than any other spot in America...

THE CAPTAIN.

To the people who live in the river towns, the captain of a steamboat is a little greater than a United States senator...

HAPPINESS VS. MISERY.

Dr. Chamber's Tonic Tablets, the great Parisian remedy, is a guaranteed cure for the brain...

legs such as men of fashion were before the sixties. The traditional mate, who drives the roustabouts, has a skill in ready and inventive that is appalling and unparalleled.

Among the spring passengers there are any number of invalids, comfortable elderly people from the East and a party of nice girls with a chaperon from some where up north.

LOADING THE BOAT.

The boat is loaded at St. Louis by an army of roustabouts, only a few of whom remain on the boat when she moves out—only enough to handle the freight at the various landings.

The cargo consists of flour, salt pork, corn, hay, mules and manufactures of many kinds.

AN ANCIENT ATMOSPHERE.

The first day after leaving St. Louis the stranger finds himself in an ancient atmosphere. Going into the pilot house he remarks to the elderly man at the wheel that this is the most pleasant part of the boat...

Before reaching Cairo there are points of interest which the passenger must discover for himself. On Lake George the captain of the "Ticonderoga" or the Mohican mounts a box and reads a thrilling history of the tone of a public reader as he points out memorable spots...

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Sunday School Lesson for January 22.

Christ and Nicodemus.

JOHN III. 1-16.

BY J. E. GILBERT, D. D., LL. D.,

Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

CONTEXT.—If John's gospel furnishes a continuous account of the teaching of the ruler was adapted to his state of mind, and it was as full as possible under the circumstances.

KNOWLEDGE.

This faithful instruction had not helped matters very much. Nicodemus was confused. There had been presented to him lines of thought with which he was not familiar, and he confessed ignorance by asking, "How can these things be?"

KINGDOM.

Immediately Jesus responded to this expressed desire for information by telling him the subject upon which John the Baptist (Matthew, III, 2) and He had been preaching (Matthew, IV, 17), the kingdom of God which He came to establish (John VIII, 38), and which the nation expected under the Messiah (Daniel, VII, 27).

DIFFICULTY.

There must be some change in the attitude of the ruler's mind if much profit is to be derived from this interview. He came professing the worth and ability of Jesus, but questioned His teaching. He acknowledged ignorance concerning what ought to have been well known, yet failed to be satisfied with the statement of one who did know.

AT ONE POINT.

At one point a negro brass band came aboard from an adjacent boat. Their time is spent in going up and down. If the brass music was not blunt, at least the vocal performances were funny.

DEADLY CATARRH.

has fastened its relentless grip upon some number of nearly every family in the land. Consumption is a disease that has been estimated to be the cause of twenty per cent of the entire population of this continent...

TEACHING.—The answer of Jesus to the question of the ruler was adapted to his state of mind, and it was as full as possible under the circumstances.

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then was the only way (John, viii, 31.)

METHOD.—If, however, it was not possible to open fully to such a mind the secret of spiritual life, showing precisely how the soul of man is new born by the operation of the Holy Spirit, it is possible to set forth some features of the method by which this would be done.

ORIGIN.

The interview might have been closed through a moment's loss for the ruler's life had not been exceeded in plain. But Nicodemus was silent, and Jesus went on to enforce what had been said by casting light on a variety of subjects.

SUMMARY.

The outline of the Christian system, as stated herein by its founder under favorable circumstances, may be given in few words. Moved by love for the race of man God gave His only begotten Son, who, in fulfilling the Father's purpose, needed to be lifted up before the eyes of the world.

ON THE WHOLE.

On the whole, it is a trip to be taken, either down or up. The former is to be preferred, as the gradual unfolding of spring is more pleasurable than the reverse, and the landings in the lower river are more frequent and interesting.

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